



State of North Carolina  
Office of the Governor

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Contact: Samantha Slapnik  
Phone: 919/733-5612

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**GOV. EASLEY TOUTS SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHERS**

*National study confirms students learn more from certified teachers*

**RALEIGH** – Gov. Mike Easley announced today independent research confirming the effectiveness of National Board Certification for teachers across the state.

The U.S. Department of Education study, released this week, examined more than 600,000 records from students across North Carolina. The study scientifically proves National Board Certified teachers do a measurably better job in the classroom. Students of National Board Certified teachers improved an average of seven percent more on their end-of-grade math and reading tests. Gains were even more pronounced for younger and lower-wealth students whose scores improved up to 15 percent.

“This study reaffirms my belief in National Board Certification for our teachers, scientifically proving the success we have already seen in our schools,” said Easley. “Earning certification is no easy task. The teachers who choose to become certified must demonstrate outstanding skill in the classroom and considerable knowledge in their chosen subject. I am proud of what they have achieved and proud of what that means for our public schools.”

National Board Certification requires an extensive series of performance-based assessments including teaching portfolios, student work samples, videotapes and thorough analyses of the candidates' classroom teaching and student learning. Teachers also complete a series of written exercises that probe the depth of their subject-matter knowledge, as well as their understanding of how to teach those subjects to their students.

North Carolina supports teachers' efforts to achieve National Board Certification in the following ways:

- Payment up front of the \$2,300 assessment fee. (Teachers are obligated to teach in the state the following year whether they achieve certification.)
- Three paid release days from normal teacher responsibilities in order to develop their portfolios.
- A 12 percent salary supplement to the teachers' regular salary, good for the 10-year life of the certification.
- 15 continuing education units (CEUs) awarded to the individual for completing the National Board Certification process.

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